

what's your diagnosis?

A middle-aged woman with cough, expectoration and fever

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Ann Saudi Med 2010; 30(5): 415

PMID: 20697168 DOI: 10.4103/0256-4947.67080

A 35-year-old woman presented with a history of productive cough and fever for a week. The fever was high grade and associated with chills. The sputum was yellowish and viscid. The patient had a history of recurrent episodes of cough and expectoration since childhood, which had needed frequent hospitalizations. Fifteen years after her marriage, she had no children. She was a nonsmoker. On examination her blood pressure was 126/80, pulse rate was 116/minute and respiratory rate was 36/minute. She had clubbing in all her digits. Her heart sounds were best heard on the right side of the chest, and the apex was best felt in right fifth intercostal space. The examination of the chest revealed bilateral crackles and rhonchi. Her chest roentgenogram revealed dextrocardia (Figure 1). ECG showed a tall R wave in V1,

an inverted P in lead I and aVL. A high-resolution CT of the chest confirmed the presence of dextrocardia and extensive bronchiectasis of the right lung and left lower lobe (Figure 2). Ultrasound of the abdomen confirmed reversal of positions of abdominal viscera. The woman was managed with intravenous antibiotics, bronchodilators and mucolytics. She improved with therapy, with remission of fever and reduction in sputum production. She was discharged 15 days later after improvement.

What is the diagnosis?

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Figure 1. Chest roentgenogram showing dextrocardia.

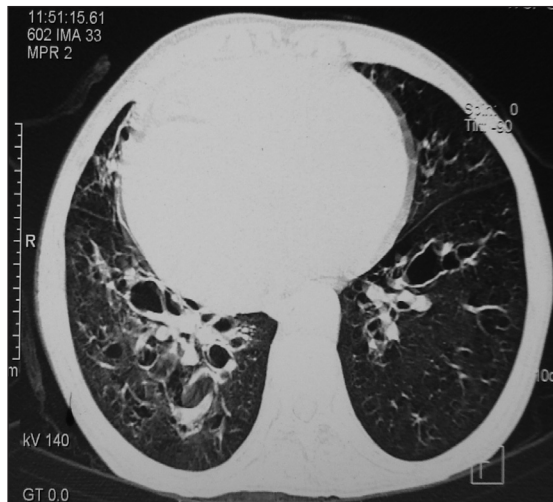


Figure 2. CT chest showing bronchiectasis.